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Climate disinformation leaves lasting mark as world heats



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Rocks and vegetation cover Highway 70 following a landslide in the Dixie Fire zone on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, in Plumas County, Calif.

Associated Press



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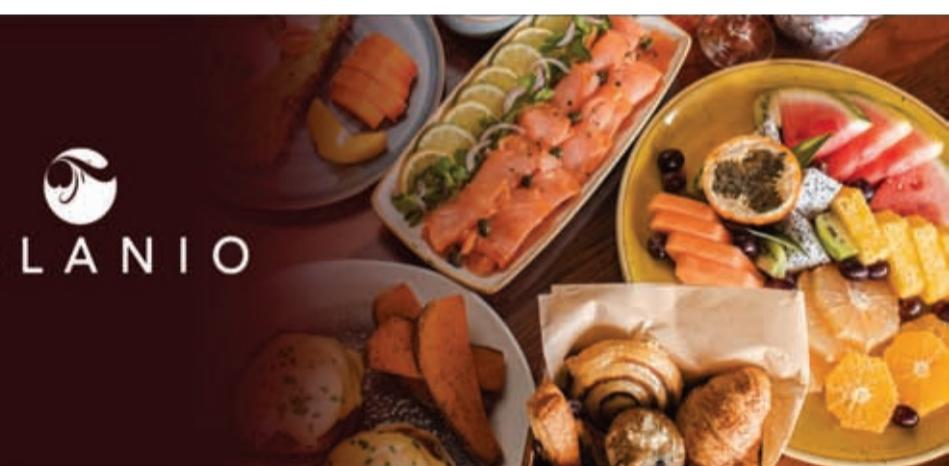
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Climate disinformation leaves lasting mark as world heats

By DAVID KLEPPER

Associated Press

In 1998, as nations around the world agreed to cut carbon emissions through the Kyoto Protocol, America's fossil fuel companies plotted their response, including an aggressive strategy to inject doubt into the public debate.

"Victory," according to the American Petroleum Institute's memo, "will be achieved when average citizens 'understand' (recognize) uncertainties in climate science... Unless 'climate change' becomes a non-issue... there may be no moment when we can declare victory."

The memo, later leaked to The New York Times that year, went on to outline how fossil fuel companies could manipulate journalists and the broader public by muddying the evidence, by playing up "both sides" of the debate and by portraying those seeking to reduce emissions as "out of touch with reality."

Nearly 25 years later, the reality of a changing climate is now clear to most Americans, as heatwaves and wildfires, rising sea levels and extreme storms become more common.

Last week, President Joe Biden announced moves intended to expand offshore wind, though he stopped short of declaring a national climate emergency. A Supreme Court ruling last month limited the federal government's ability to regulate carbon emissions from power plants, meaning it will be up to a divided Congress to pass any meaningful limits on emissions.

Even as surveys show the public generally has become more concerned about climate change, a sizeable number of Americans have become even more distrustful of the scientific consensus.

"The tragedy of this is that all over social media, you can see tens of millions of Americans who think scientists are lying, even about things that have been proven for decades," said Naomi Oreskes, a histo-



Homes are flooded in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida in LaPlace, La., Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021. Wildfires, floods and soaring temperatures have made climate change real to many Americans. Yet a sizeable number continue to dismiss the scientific consensus that human activity is to blame. That's in part because of a decades-long campaign by fossil fuel companies to muddy the facts and promote fringe explanations.

Associated Press

rian of science at Harvard University who has written about the history of climate change disinformation. "They've been persuaded by decades of disinformation. The denial is really, really deep."

And persistent. Just last month, even with record heat in London, raging wildfires in Alaska and historic flooding in Australia, the Science and Environmental Policy Project, a pro-fossil fuel think tank, said all the scientists had it wrong.

"There is no climate crisis," the group wrote in its newsletter.

Years before COVID-19 set off a wave of misinformation, or former President Donald Trump's lies about the 2020 election helped spur an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, fossil fuel companies spent big in an effort to undermine support for emissions reductions.

Now, even as those same companies promote investments in renewable energy, the legacy of all that climate disinformation remains.

It's also contributed to a broader skepticism of scientists, scientific institutions and the media that report on them, a distrust

reflected by doubts about vaccines or pandemic-era public health measures like masks and quarantines.

"It was the opening of a Pandora's Box of disinformation that has proven hard to control," said Dave Anderson of the Energy and Policy Institute, an organization that has criticized oil and coal companies for withholding what they knew about the risks of climate change.

Starting in the 1980s and 1990s, as public awareness of climate change grew, fossil fuel companies poured millions of dollars into public relations campaigns denouncing the accumulating evidence supporting the idea of climate change. They funded supposedly independent think tanks that cherrypicked the science and promoted fringe views designed to make it look like there were two legitimate sides to the dispute.

Since then, the approach has softened as the impact of climate change has become more apparent. Now, fossil fuel companies are more likely to play up their supposedly pro-environmental record, touting renewables like solar and wind or initiatives designed

to improve energy efficiency or offset carbon emissions.

Aggressive approaches to address climate change are now dismissed not on scientific grounds but on economic ones. Fossil fuel companies talk about lost jobs or higher energy prices — without mentioning the cost of doing nothing, said Ben Franta, an attorney, author and Stanford University researcher who tracks fossil fuel disinformation. "We are living within an extended multi-decade campaign executed by the fossil fuel industry," Franta said. "The debate (over climate change) was manufactured by the fossil fuel industry in the 1990s, and we are living with that history right now."

The impact of that history is reflected in public opinion surveys that show a growing gap between Republicans and other Americans when it comes to views on climate change.

While the percentage of overall Americans who say they're concerned about climate change has risen, Republicans are increasingly skeptical. Last year, Gallup found that 32% of self-identified Republicans said they accepted the sci-

entific consensus that pollution from humans is driving climate change, down from 52% in 2003.

By comparison, the percentage of self-identified Democrats that say they accept that human activities are leading to climate change increased from 68 to 88 over the same time period.

Fossil fuel companies deny any intent to mislead the American public and point to investments in renewable energy as evidence that they take climate change seriously.

ExxonMobil CEO Darren Woods told members of Congress last fall that his company "has long acknowledged the reality and risks of climate change, and it has devoted significant resources to addressing those risks."

ExxonMobil's public claims about climate change, he said, "are and have always been truthful, fact-based ... and consistent" with mainstream science.

Asked about its role in spreading climate misinformation, a spokesman for the Southern Company pointed to recent expansions in renewable energy and initiatives meant to offset carbon emissions.

The American Petroleum Institute did not respond to messages seeking comment for this story. The trade group was behind the 1998 "victory memo" that laid out the industry's strategy to respond to concerns about climate change.

That memo is one of several documents cited by climate activists and some Democratic lawmakers who say they could be used to hold them legally responsible for misleading ratepayers, investors or the general public.

"It's time for these companies to answer for the harm they have caused," said Rep. Ro Khanna, D-California.

Republicans, however, have said Democrats want to focus on climate misinformation to distract from failed environmental policies that are driving up gas and energy costs. □

Man's 63-month prison term matches longest for Capitol riot

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

A man who attacked police officers with poles during the riot at the U.S. Capitol was sentenced on Tuesday to more than five years in prison, matching the longest term of imprisonment so far among hundreds of Capitol riot prosecutions.

Mark Ponder, a 56-year-old resident of Washington, D.C., said he "got caught up" in the chaos that erupted on Jan. 6, 2021, and "didn't mean for any of this to happen."

"I wasn't thinking that day," Ponder told U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, asking her for mercy before she sentenced him to five years and three months in prison.

That was three months longer than the prison sentence requested by prosecutors. And it's the same sentence that Chutkan gave Robert Palmer, a Florida man who also pleaded guilty to assaulting police at the Capitol.

More than 200 other Capitol riot defendants have been sentenced so far. None received a longer prison sentence than Ponder or Palmer.

Chutkan said Ponder was "leading the charge" against police officers trying to hold off the mob that disrupted Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's electoral victory.

"This is not 'caught up,' Mr. Ponder," she said. "He was intent on attacking and injuring police officers. This was not a protest."

Chutkan has consistently taken a hard line in punishing Capitol rioters. She has handed down terms of imprisonment to all 13 riot defendants who have come before her, matching or exceeding the Justice Department's sentencing recommendation in every case, according to an Associated Press review of court records.

Prosecutors had recommended a five-year prison sentence for Ponder, who has been jailed since his arrest in March 2021.

In April, Ponder pleaded guilty to an assault charge

punishable by a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. Federal sentencing guidelines called for a prison term ranging from nearly five years to just under six years, but Chutkan wasn't bound by those recommendations.

More than 100 police officers were injured during the riot.

Defense attorney Joseph Conte said Ponder was "caught up in the madness that was January 6." Conte asked for a sentence below the guidelines range.

Ponder swung a pole at a Capitol police officer on the Capitol's West Plaza, breaking it against the officer's shield. After retreating into the crowd, Ponder grabbed a sturdier pole colored in red, white, and blue stripes. He used it to assault two other officers, hitting one of them in the left shoulder, before police detained and handcuffed him.

Outnumbered officers released Ponder because they couldn't get a police vehicle to transport him. They told him to leave the Capitol, but Ponder stayed and joined a mob of rioters clashing with police at a tunnel.

Capitol Police Sgt. Aquilino Gonell, one of the officers assaulted by Ponder, said the force of Ponder's blow shattered his shield.

"It was horrific," Gonell said during Ponder's sentencing hearing. "That particular day will impact me for the rest of my life."

After his arrest, Ponder told FBI agents that he typically supports police but viewed the officers as "part of the problem" that day.

"At some point in time, the way this country is going, you gonna have to pick a side," he said, according to prosecutors.

Ponder attended the "Stop the Steal" rally on Jan. 6 to hear then-President Donald Trump's speech and to "peacefully protest the results of the election and the lack of attention to alleged voting irregularities," Conte wrote in a court filing.

"He did so with no intent to do anything but add his



In this image from a Washington Metropolitan Police Department officer's body-worn video camera, and contained in the statement of facts supporting an arrest warrant for Mark Ponder, Ponder strikes an officer with a pole on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

voice to the vocal protests over the injustice he perceived had happened in the election," the attorney added. "Unfortunately, he got caught up in the riotous

atmosphere of the crowd and erroneously perceived the police as standing in the way of the crowd's desire to protest the election results."

Ponder has a substantial criminal record spanning three decades, including a 2008 conviction for bank robbery, according to prosecutors.

More than 840 people have been charged with federal crimes for their conduct at the Capitol on Jan. 6. Over 350 riot defendants have pleaded guilty or been convicted by a jury or a judge after trials.

More than 220 of them have been sentenced, including approximately 100 who received a term of imprisonment. Ponder is the 15th to be sentenced to a prison term exceeding one year.

The prison sentences for Ponder and Palmer may not be the lengthiest for much longer. □



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Northwestern U.S. set for its hottest day of long heat wave

By CLAIRE RUSH
Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Temperatures are predicted to soar to 100 degrees in Portland, Oregon on Tuesday, which is expected to be the hottest day of a heat spell that meteorologists believe will be unusually long for the Pacific Northwest region, which rarely sees such scorching weather.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown declared a state of emergency across much of the state, warning the extreme temperatures may cause utility outages and transportation disruptions.

"With many parts of Oregon facing a high heat wave, it is critical that every level of government has the resources they need to help keep Oregonians safe and healthy," Brown said in a statement.

As the northwestern U.S. heated up, the hot spell on the East Coast appeared to have broken, with few areas east of the Mississippi River under heat advisories on Tuesday.

Philadelphia hit 99 degrees (37 Celsius) Sunday before factoring in humidity. Newark, New Jersey, had its fifth



Brian Gadzuk, 56, clears out the trunk of his Jeep to make space for a new air conditioning unit in the parking lot of McLendon Hardware in Renton, Wash., on Sunday, July 24, 2022.

Associated Press

consecutive day of 100 degrees or higher, the longest such streak since records began in 1931. Boston also hit 100 degrees, surpassing the previous daily record high of 98 degrees (36.6 Celsius) set in 1933.

On Tuesday, highs were forecasted for the mid-80s (about 29 Celsius) in Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

Residents and officials in the Northwest have been

trying to adjust to the likely reality of longer, hotter heat waves following last summer's deadly "heat dome" weather phenomenon that prompted record temperatures and deaths.

In response, Oregon passed a law requiring all new housing built after April 2024 to have air conditioning installed in at least one room. The law already prohibits landlords in most cases from restricting ten-

ants from installing cooling devices in their rental units. About 800 people died in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia during the 2021 heat wave in late June and early July. The temperature at the time soared to 116 degrees F (46.7 C) in Portland and smashed heat records in cities and towns across the region. Many of those who died were elderly and lived alone. □

While temperatures this week are not expected to get that high, the anticipated number of consecutive hot days has raised concerns among officials.

The National Weather Service in Portland issued an extreme heat warning for large swaths of Oregon and Washington state out of concern that nighttime temperatures won't help residents to sufficiently cool off. "The main reason for that warning is because of those low temperatures only getting into the 65 to 70 degree range, and the fact that this is such a long duration event," said Colby Neuman, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Portland.

The forecasted lows "are only happening for one or two hours, right around sunrise. And that's it," said Neuman. "There isn't a lot of time for households and apartments to cool off."

Portland seems to be on track to "either tying or exceeding" previous heat wave duration records, Neuman said. The record stands at six consecutive days of 95 degrees (35C) or higher, which has only been reached twice before. □

Body near Lake Mead swimming site 3rd to surface since May



A formerly sunken boat sits on cracked earth hundreds of feet from the shoreline of Lake Mead at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area on May 10, 2022, near Boulder City, Nev.

Associated Press

By KEN RITTER
Associated Press
LAS VEGAS (AP) — Another body has surfaced at Lake Mead — this time in a swimming area where water levels have dropped as the

Colorado River reservoir behind Hoover Dam recedes because of drought and climate change. The National Park Service did not say in a statement how long officials think the

corpse was submerged in the Boulder Beach area before it was found Monday by people who summoned park rangers.

Clark County Coroner Melanie Rouse said Tuesday it was partially encased in mud at the water line of the swimming area along the shore north of Hemenway Harbor marina.

The gender of the dead person was not immediately apparent, Rouse said, and it was too early to tell a time, cause and manner of death. Investigators will review missing persons records as part of the effort, Rouse said.

The corpse was the third found since May as the shoreline retreats at the shrinking reservoir between Nevada and Arizona east of Las Vegas. The lake sur-

face has dropped more than 170 feet (52 meters) since the reservoir was full in 1983. It is now about 30% full.

The coroner said her office was continuing work to identify a man whose body was found May 1 in a rusted barrel in the Hemenway Harbor area and a man whose bones were found May 7 in a newly surfaced sand bar near Callville Bay, more than 9 miles (14.5 kilometers) from the marina.

On July 6, the body of a 22-year-old Boulder City woman was found in the water near where she disappeared while riding a personal watercraft. Rouse said it may take several weeks to determine her cause of death. The case of the body in the barrel was being investi-

gated as a homicide after police said the man had been shot and his clothing dated to the mid-1970s to early 1980s.

The discoveries have prompted speculation about long-unsolved missing person and murder cases dating back decades — to organized crime and the early days of Las Vegas, which is just a 30-minute drive from the lake.

The drop in the lake level comes while a vast majority of peer-reviewed science says the world is warming, mainly because of rising levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Scientists say the U.S. West, including the Colorado River basin, has become warmer and drier in the past 30 years. □

Russia to drop out of International Space Station after 2024

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
and MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia will pull out of the International Space Station after 2024 and focus on building its own orbiting outpost, the country's new space chief said Tuesday amid high tensions between Moscow and the West over the fighting in Ukraine.

The announcement, while not unexpected, throws into question the future of the 24-year-old space station, with experts saying it would be extremely difficult perhaps a "nightmare," by one reckoning to keep it running without the Russians. NASA and its partners had hoped to continue operating it until 2030.

"The decision to leave the station after 2024 has been made," Yuri Borisov, appointed this month to lead the Russian space agency, Roscosmos, said during a meeting with President Vladimir Putin. He added: "I think that by that time we will start forming a Russian orbiting station."

The space station has long been a symbol of post-Cold War international teamwork in the name of science but is now one of the last areas of cooperation between the U.S. and the Kremlin.

NASA had no immediate comment.

Borisov's statement reaffirmed previous declara-



In this June 2, 2021 file image taken from Roscosmos video, Russian cosmonauts Oleg Novitsky, right, and Pyotr Dubrov, members of the crew to the International Space Station (ISS), perform their first spacewalk to replace old batteries outside the International Space Station.

tions by Russian space officials about Moscow's intention to leave the space station after 2024 when the current international arrangements for its operation end.

Russian officials have long talked about their desire to launch their own space station and have complained that the wear and tear on the aging International Space Station is compromising safety and could make it difficult to extend its lifespan.

Cost may also be a factor: With Elon Musk's SpaceX company now flying NASA astronauts to and from the

space station, the Russian Space Agency lost a major source of income. For years, NASA had been paying tens of millions of dollars per seat for rides aboard Russian Soyuz rockets.

The Russian announcement is certain to stir speculation that it is part of Moscow's maneuvering to win relief from Western sanctions over the conflict in Ukraine. Borisov's predecessor, Dmitry Rogozin, said last month that Moscow could take part in negotiations about a possible extension of the station's operations only if the U.S. lifts its sanctions against Russian space in-

dustries.

Former Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield tweeted in reaction to Tuesday's announcement: "Remember that Russia's best game is chess."

The space station is jointly run by Russia, the U.S., Europe, Japan and Canada. The first piece was put in orbit in 1998, and the outpost has been continuously inhabited for nearly 22 years. It is used to conduct scientific research in zero gravity and test out technology for future journeys to the moon and Mars.

It typically has a crew of seven, who spend months

at a time aboard the station as it orbits about 260 miles (420 kilometers) above Earth. Three Russians, three Americans and one Italian are now on board.

The \$100 billion-plus complex is about as long as a football field and consists of two main sections, one run by Russia, the other by the U.S. and the other countries.

It was not immediately clear what will have to be done to the Russian side of the complex to safely operate the space station once Moscow pulls out.

Former NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, who spent 340 continuous days aboard the International Space Station in 2015 and 2016, said that the Russian statement "could be just more bluster," noting that "after 2024" is vague and open-ended.

"I believe Russia will stay as long as they can afford to, as without ISS they have no human spaceflight program," he said. "Cooperation with the West also shows some amount of legitimacy to other, non-aligned nations and to their own people, which Putin needs, as the war in Ukraine has damaged his credibility."

Kelly said the design of the station would make it difficult but not impossible for the remaining nations to operate it if Russia were to withdraw. □

Serbian police break up people-smuggling gang, find migrants

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Serbia's police broke up a people-smuggling gang near the border with Hungary early on Tuesday, and found various weapons and hundreds of passports and other documents taken from migrants trying to reach Western Europe, officials said.

Police also discovered 120 migrants, including women and children, during the operation in the area of Mali Horgos, a statement said.

Tuesday's operation is the second this month against people-smugglers along

the border with Serbia's European Union neighbor Hungary. Stepped-up police activity has followed a clash in the area in early July that left one person dead.

Police said they found both firearms and other weapons with the smugglers.

"Any human being on our territory has the right to be respected, and to dignity," said Interior Minister Aleksandar Vulin.

People fleeing violence or poverty in the Middle East, Africa or Asia have been stranded by the Hungarian border hoping to cross from

the Balkan country and move further west.

Sneaking over Serbia's northern border often takes months because Hungary has put up two rows of barbed wire fence and deployed heavy security. Migrants therefore often turn to people-smugglers in order to continue their journey toward the EU's more prosperous nations.

Migrants routinely face perils on their long journeys toward better lives.

From Serbia, migrants also cross into Croatia, Bosnia or Romania. □



In this photo provided by the Serbian Interior Ministry, Serbian Police officer gives water to migrants near village of Horgos, Serbia, Tuesday, July 26, 2022.

Associated Press

5 killed, 50 injured in anti-UN protests in Congo's east

By JEAN-YVES KAMALE

Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) —

At least five people have been killed and about 50 others injured on the second day of demonstrations in Congo's eastern city of Goma against the United Nations mission in the country, a government official said.

The United Nations confirmed that one peacekeeper and two international policemen serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force were killed and another injured at the U.N. base in Butembo in North Kivu province in the east when "violent attackers snatched weapons from Congolese police" and fire on the U.N. personnel.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said reports of civilian casualties, including reports of U.N. peacekeepers killing and injuring civilians, would be investigated. He said that on Tuesday "hundreds of assailants again attacked bases of the U.N. force, known by its French acronym MONUSCO, in Goma as well as other parts of North Kivu "fueled by hostile remarks and threats made by individuals and groups against the U.N., particularly on social media."

"Mobs are throwing stones and petrol bombs, break-



A resident holds a placard reading "MONUSCO get out without delay" as they protest against the United Nations peacekeeping force (MONUSCO) deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Goma, Monday, July 25, 2022.

Associated Press

ing into bases, looting and vandalizing, and setting facilities on fire," Haq said. "We are trying to calm things down" including by dispatching quick reaction forces but there is no evidence the violence has ended.

In addition, Haq said at least four incidents targeted the residences of MONUSCO staff, who have now been relocated to U.N. camps. And a mob also tried to enter the compound of the U.N. Development Program earlier Tuesday but was repelled by security guards,

he said.

Demonstrators on Monday had set fires and forced entry into the U.N. mission offices in Goma, accusing the peacekeeping forces of failing to protect civilians amid rising violence in Congo's eastern region. They are calling for the U.N. forces, present in Congo for years, to leave.

"At least 5 dead, around 50 wounded," government spokesman Patrick Muyaya said in a tweet, condemning attacks on U.N. personnel and buildings.

Protesters blamed shots

fired by the peacekeepers for the deaths.

Congo's mineral-rich east is home to myriad rebel groups and the region's security has worsened despite a year of emergency operations by a joint force of the armies of Congo and Uganda. Civilians in the east have also had to deal with violence from jihadi rebels linked to the Islamic State group.

The government spokesman didn't say what caused the deaths but described the response by security forces and peace-

keepers as "warning shots to disperse the demonstrators and prevent any attack on the @MONUSCO base and installations," he said on his Twitter account.

"The government has instructed the security forces to take all measures to ensure a return to calm and the normal resumption of activities in Goma," he said. He also reiterated that steps are already being taken for the peacekeeping forces to be withdrawn.

In June 2021 and June 2022, the peacekeeping mission closed its office in Congo's Kasai Central and Tanganyika regions. The mission has more than 16,000 uniformed personnel in Congo, according to the U.N. The protests are taking place as fighting has escalated between Congolese troops and the M23 rebels, forcing nearly 200,000 people to flee their homes.

The M23 forces have shown increased firepower and defense capabilities, according to a report by Human Rights Watch.

MONUSCO's acting head Khassim Diagne and U.N. spokesman Haq condemned the killings of U.N. personnel. Haq said U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean Pierre Lacroix, who is currently in Mali, will be traveling to Congo "at his earliest opportunity." □

U.N.: Violence rising in rural Colombia despite peace deal



Children look at an armored vehicle in Toribio, southwest Colombia, Oct. 30, 2019.

Associated Press

By MANUEL RUEDA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) —

Violence is increas-

ing in many rural areas of Colombia despite a 2016 peace deal between the government and the coun-

try's largest guerrilla group, the United Nations Human Rights Office said in a report. It called on the government to boost rural development and take steps to encourage members of Colombia's remaining illegal groups to demobilize. The report, published Tuesday, said homicides decreased after the Colombian government signed the peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which ended five decades of war and generated hope in rural communities.

But it noted that in the past two years violence has increased significantly in remote areas where smaller

armed groups are fighting over drug trafficking routes and territory that was once controlled by the FARC.

According to the U.N., 100 human rights defenders were killed across the country in 2021, compared to 61 in 2016, the year the peace deal with the FARC was signed. The organization also noted that forced displacement increased in 2021, and that currently more than 54,000 people in the western province of Choco are trapped by armed groups who will not allow them to leave their villages.

Juliette de Rivero, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights' representative

in Colombia, said in some pockets of southwestern Colombia rebel groups and drug trafficking organizations have such great control over their territory that they are issuing ID cards locals must carry to move between villages. She added that in some communities militias are also asking visitors to present lab tests that show they don't have any sexually transmitted diseases.

De Rivero said Colombia's government has relied mostly on military operations to improve security in rural areas, but that this strategy has failed to stop the expansion of illegal groups. □

Aruba's Fire Department in complete renovation

New structure, materials and trucks

Monday morning, minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon during a press conference informed about renovations at the Fire Department, a department that went through many challenges in the last few years; many challenges which, together with management team, labor union and personnel they were able to overcome.

Tjon said that last week, the amount of 2.2 million Florin was approved, which was needed to finalize the purchase of four trucks for the Fire Department of Aruba. "With this purchase, the fleet for the Fire Department will be in good condition for the following years", he assured.

Also last week, special clothing arrived to the island so that all firemen can carry out their duties more safely.

During the press conference, minister Tjon showed some images, which the reader can also appreciate in this edition, that illustrate the previous condition of one of the old truck's tire, as well as showing how the crew went to work with broken shoes. He commented that the conditions in which they were carrying out their duties were not optimal and this presented a risk to their safety.

According to the management plan for the Ministry of Justice and Social Affairs it is important for the crew carrying out their duties to receive the proper tools in order to do this optimally, and most importantly, while keeping themselves safe.

Last week the department also received oxygen machines that were ordered for each fireman, so that the following years the Fire Department will be properly equipped with these. The last time such machines were purchased was back in 2003 under Cabinet Oduber 1, and in 2018, ex-minister of Justice,



Andrin Bikker also bought a few for a group, but not every crew member was able to receive one. Aside from the oxygen machines, the department also received new gloves and helmets and other tools for their job.

Tjon showed images illustrating how the trucks that were recently purchased are already in production. It is known that these trucks take a long time to be completed.

Aside from materials, Tjon also finds it important to regulate the legal position of the workers. This is also an area where the department confronted many



challenges. Tjon said that during the past months, he worked together with the labor unions, management team and the Department of Human Resources in order to catch up with some backlog. He announced that all promotions that had fallen behind are now at the Cabinet of the Governor, His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt for his signature after being approved by the Council of Ministers. Now this is in the final phase for the Fire Department, where many workers had to wait years in order to regulate their legal position, according to Tjon.

Tjon also informed about agreements that were



reached with American companies regarding training for the crew of the Fire Department. They have received information and much needed training, according to what was informed by the labor union and the management team. Before, the last training took place in 2007, which means that for many years the personnel did not receive adequate training. Aside from promotions, there was also courses that were backlogged for the personnel, and some of them have already started while others will begin next month.

"Obviously this is very important for the proper functioning of the department, but it's also important for the career of the personnel as well", Tjon commented.

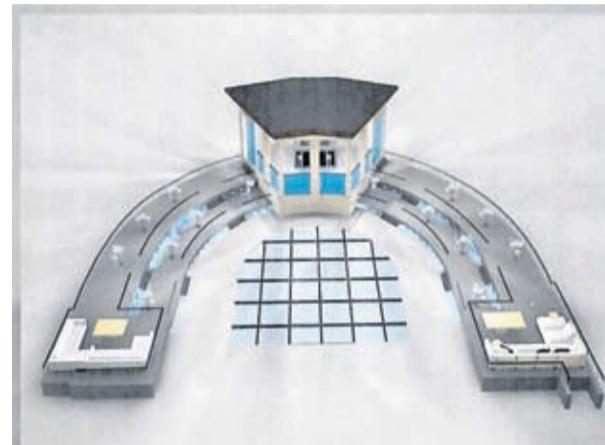
The Fire Department Post in San Nicolas is in the middle of renovations, according to Tjon, and will be completely done by the end of the year.

He pointed out how the labor union constructively gave attention to all these aspects that for many years were the source of unhappiness in the department. He announced that the budget for this department per year is about two million Florins. In order to attend to all the above mentioned issues, Tjon said that he earmarked another 7.5 million in the budget to take all these aspects into consideration. □





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Wifi: Wifi Present
Catering: In-House Catering

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Partners and Planners

If you are a planner or agency, we can connect with you to help make your event come to life.

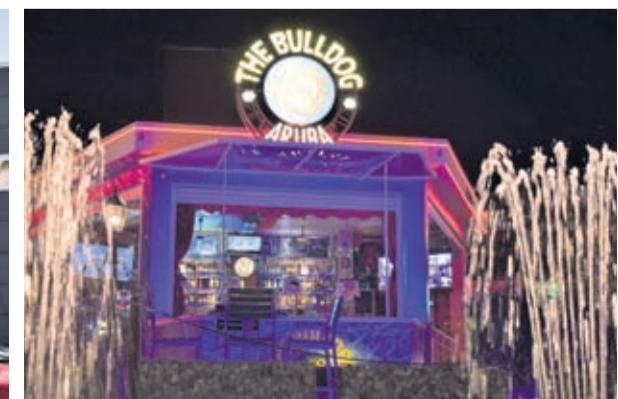
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Cruise Ship tourism has recovered with 61% compared to the first 6 months of 2019 APA expects to see a good recovery for the remainder of this year

ORANJESTAD - The moment the coronavirus pandemic knocked on our doors, like any other country, Aruba had to cancel many Cruise Ship's arrivals to the Island. However little by little we have started to welcome these ships back and had to make certain adjustments in order to receive them again. After the first 2 turbulent months of 2022, we can see that a positive recovery started to take place.

In the months of January and February, Aruba Ports Authority N.V (APA) saw approximately 17 cancellations and this had an impact in our recovery. This took place right when the recovery was at a good pace and the wave of the Omicron variant had knocked on the doors. At the end of February, this recovery started to take off once again and the occupation of Cruise Ships recovered drastically.

For the first 6 months of 2022, APA welcomed 263,472 cruise ship passengers, which brought a recovery of 61% compared to the same first 6 months of 2019. APA welcomed 162 cruise ships, which is 5 less than the same period in 2019. This means we are receiving cruise ships however the recovery is still underway, for which the

months of May and June were the best occupation since the pandemic.

June 2022 was the best month since the pandemic, where Aruba received 6.3% more cruise passengers compared to June in 2019. In the month of May, for the first time, Aruba welcomed Royal Caribbean, which ever since its first arrival has been visiting the Island every 2 weeks with almost 6000 passengers on board in the latest visit.

The APA team along with its partners worked very hard to be able to bring this mega cruise ship. It takes intense negotiations for months before the arrival of such ships. Not only for the promotion of the cruise ship, but also for the changes in infrastructure

that Aruba Ports Authority N.V needs to make in order to accommodate this mega cruise ship at our port.

For the rest of the 2022 year, it's expected that there will be a recovery of about 65% assuming there will be no more global or regional events that have a negative impact on the Island. Currently we are in the hurricane season, which traditionally lowers the amount of cruise ships, however with the arrival of yet another mega cruise ship, a good push to the recovery is expected with a good amount of passengers and the spin-off effect that can be felt in the economy.

In the aspect of shipments, which mainly arrive at the port in Barcadera, a re-

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covery in container (TUEs) YTD of approximately 90% could be seen. This means that there will probably be a positive recovery in our tourism, which translates to the hotels in high capacity, which becomes fuel for the growth of our economy.

Because the Island imports most products, the increase in the amount of containers and shipments that come to Aruba weekly can be seen and felt immediately, mainly from the United States, but from other parts of the world as well.□

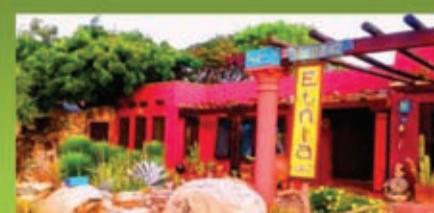
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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Let's take care of Aruba!

Etnia Nativa through Island Insight facilitates cultural awareness, education and safeguards Aruba's heritage by elevating each reader into an island keeper state of mind. Be encouraged to discover in every episode the true native effect, live it and discover more reasons to love Aruba behind our beaches by liven up your stay in an incredibly wonderful way through this cultural blog.

Our island is a tiny tourist destination with a fragile ecosystem, covering thousands of years of history. Here is where Etnia Nativa's main objective comes to mind through educating the readers over Aruba's heritage. We believe in when you love and value what you have; ones greatest desire becomes to protect it.

In this episode we will try to share a native perspective and concerns regarding Aruba's vulnerability as a tiny peaceful tourist destination threatened by lobbyists at the top and at the bottom, the menacing poverty, corruption and crime driven by people in desperation attempting to climb out of a system that it has fallen in.

As Arubans we wonder what will happen to our natural landscape, geological aspects, tradition, history and cultural way of life that we inherited from our Euro-Indigenous ancestors? Our island is our home, which slowly is been swallow up by overexploitation by those we choose to protect it.

Etnia Nativa's goal as a native awareness and influencer, starts each morning in educating participants through an engaging, truly local awareness experience. All this happens in a private area of 880m² and within the limits of a beloved home; a small building/garden/gallery/museum that houses remote cultural knowledge as well as native plant and if lucky see free living animals, endangered bird species visitors can interact with.

Aruba is at a point where the government, business, scientist and the general public should determine

Episode CLXIV-164



character. However everyone's duty to make an unconditional choice for the future and consider the demographic and geophysical limitations of our "beloved rock" an priority (Episode 153).

The indispensable quality of this tourist destination is based on an ancient desert landscape, the blue sea that surrounds beautiful white sandy beaches as well as an ancient cultural heritage. To all this we must proudly add the unsurpassed kindness of our native fundamental pillars and an essential factor in the early development of insular tourism industry in adiccion a key factor in its success. These incomparable central elements must continue to provid a day by day fascinating satisfaction however limiting the quantity of rooms and adapting the cost of vist to all who comes from all over the world to be part of our native hospitality. We believe in order not to further alter these excellent

parameters, it is essential to put an end to overexploitation mitigating product fatigue.

Aruba is immersed in a system whose main objective is based on making profit no matter what. This way of doing business has proven to generate disastrous results. Like forcing your only golden egg laying goose to dead and with out considering and economic alternative that has life and a sustainable existential approach in practice and action.

As locals, we urgently need to consider a sustainable existence within a territory that is 100% ecologically aware. For which it is essential to recognize and respect native species on land in caves, over and under the sea, in schools, and everywhere. In our own hands rests the duty to request responsible legislative respect that safeguards and guarantees the protection of each of the species in question and the existence of the ecosystem for future generations.



If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa: a cozy museum/home.

Etnia Nativa a private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials. Meet Anthony Croes, our columnist at his home! Book your visit Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com

Jesse Rasmijn: Photography opened his eyes to the beautiful and fragile nature of Aruba

From a young man brought up fishing as a hobby, today Jesse Rasmijn is an extraordinary environmentalist who wants to inspire more people to discover the beauty in nature. And now he's going even further, he wants to combine his love of nature with activism to make sure that our island's coasts remain clean.

Jesse Rasmijn is a graphic designer, who about two years ago was practically addicted to fishing. Not necessarily the act of fishing itself, but the atmosphere of sitting on a boat for long hours, without having to exchange words and simply appreciating the silence and the sound of the ocean's waves hitting the boat.

"It was almost an addiction; I would stay hours on the sea. You could say I was a beach bum, because I would even leave my work aside sometimes to go on the ocean." He decided to take up photography as a hobby in order to find more options and break his addiction to the sea a bit. His life changed and in the process, he changed the lives of many others.

Eric and San Nicolas

Jesse took up his camera as a new photographer and started taking pictures of his beloved town, San Nicolas. It was a photo of San Nicolas which he posted on Facebook which caught attention and the heart of many people. The photo was of the sunrises coming up behind the Santa Theresita church, and it was so that the phenomenon of Jesse, fabulous landscape photographer, was born. From photographs of St. Christoffelberg in Curaçao, of Ser'l Cabay in the Arikok National Park of Aruba, to starting with commercial photography, Rasmijn became an inspiration to many.

But perhaps he can be an inspiration to many because he learned to know himself thanks to a person who is still influencing his life's philosophy. Jesse grew up with Eric Nassy, who was his mother's partner. Nassy was someone dedicated to fighting drug addiction in Aruba, and he was also a person who believed in the potential of San Nicolas, where he grew up and where he died. The death of Eric Nassy in 2020 had an impact on the community of Aruba, but it was the education he gave to Jesse that is keeping his philosophy alive.

"Before Eric left us, he taught me that 'knowing yourself is the beginning of wisdom'." And it was for this reason that with every photograph that Eric shares, he adds a philosophic text with it, a thought expressed in words in order to give more meaning to his photography. "I sit down together with my mother and we come up with these phrases. This is how we try to continue what Eric left behind. He taught me a lot."

Expansion into mondi

For each photograph of San Nicolas that Jesse posts, there is a huge amount that he took but did not share. This is typical of every photographer that wants to document life. And at a given point, he realized he wants to photograph more of his surroundings. At that moment he went into the 'mondi' – Aruba's wilderness – and so Jesse became someone who explores Aruba's rugged nature, heavy, but extremely exciting.

A mondi that for many might not look like much, but which contains enormous riches if one decides to confront the hubada, the tuna and the bringamosa. "As a child I didn't know the mondi. We didn't grow up to appreciate the mondi. And I want to bring a change to that."

Once Jesse discovered the mondi, he found himself in another world. A world where the plants, insects, rattlesnakes, but particularly the whole landscape began to speak to him, and he replied through his photographs. And so he began taking people along his discovery of the Aruba he knew the most, during the pandemic in particular, but one which many more people have yet to learn to appreciate.

Recently Jesse, together with his friend Shanon Croes – who also guides groups into Aruba's nature – decided to go to Costa Rica, the Mecca for people who want 'pura vida'. Costa Rica is famous for their drive to protect their nature, and Jesse and Shanon's experience illustrated that



there is much to do in Aruba. Costa Rica is big and green, and Aruba is small and dry desert. But that doesn't mean that there aren't hidden corners and that there aren't spectacular natural areas deserving of admiration, and more importantly, protection.

Not my trash, but Aruba is my island

Rasmijn organizes cleaning activities of different areas of Aruba, where he combines hiking while also cleaning the route. Even though most of the trash that the sea brings to the beach comes from South America through ocean currents, "it's not our trash, but Aruba is our island", which is his focus to preservation of our country. And as a person who is now getting paid for his photography, on the most beautiful corners of Aruba, he believes that others who make their money thanks to Aruba's nature – like tour operators – need to learn to know, appreciate and protect the island better, and teach our visitors that they also play a role in protecting Aruba's environment and ecology. This way, everyone can contribute so that our country continues being the beautiful island that everyone says they love.

The young man who meditated on a boat at sea really never changed. It's only that his thoughts are now expressed in his photographs, his captions and his passion to inspire others to know, respect, love and protect the nature of Aruba. And like his father Eric taught him, "I hope to continue pushing Aruba and San Nicolas, like he did. And for me to be the man that Eric Nassy wanted me to be."

Aruba Today also had a chat with Jesse's friend, Shanon Croes. You can read that interview by visiting the link <https://www.arubatoday.com/shanon-croes-when-doing-an-activity-to-enjoy-nature-do-it-with-awareness/> or simply scan the QR Code.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Freshman,

1 Antlered animal 41 Son of Zeus

5 Cocoon, for example

9 Moon-based 11 Labor leader Chavez

12 Tibia's end

13 Skilled

14 Soup sphere

15 Long steps

17 Zebra trademark

19 Attempt

20 Desert spot

21 Happiness

22 Bisected

24 Paid spots

26 Mom's sisters

29 Bar cubes

30 Tries hard

32 Part of a diamond count

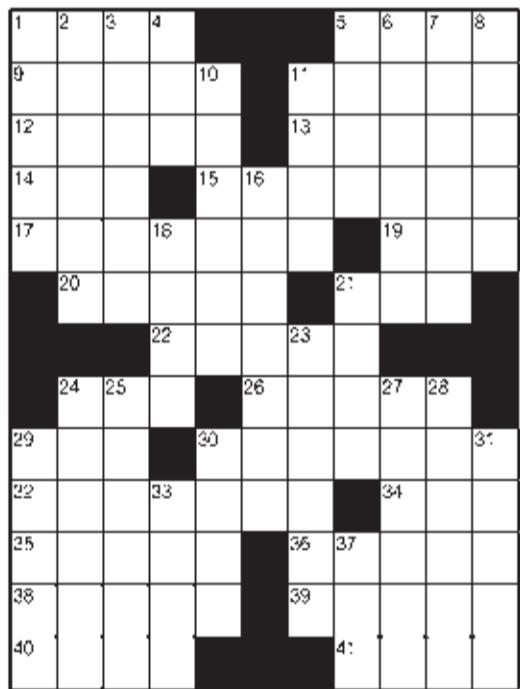
34 — Lanka

35 France's longest river

36 Spud

38 Supply with a grant

39 Alan Ladd classic

**Yesterday's answer**

7-27

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

P C F M R M E I I B V I S I M S I F H I Y

H E Z J Q I I Q I S X E D I H G I

E N N E S H A D J H X H E P I E V D I Y P X

F W J D J - N F D I E G I S . — A D R I D E V D
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DO NOT NEED TO BE FIXED; THEY NEED TO BE ACCEPTED FOR WHO THEY ARE.
— JORDAN CHRISTIAN

Millennial Money: Can job-hopping help retirement savings?

Commuters pass through Grand Central Terminal on March 10, 2020 in New York.

Associated Press

By ELIZABETH AYOOLA

NerdWallet

Millennials have been coined the "job-hopping generation," and I've contributed to that stereotype. I started my career at 22 and have job-hopped almost every year since. For many of those years, I was young and restless, and there was another part of me looking for more fulfilling work and pay that reflected what I was worth. In some ways, changing jobs set back my retirement savings. There are things I wish I'd learned earlier, like how to start retirement planning, the importance of developing high-demand skills, and the art of negotiating benefits. But it has also helped me improve my earnings. Once "lifestyle creep" when your income increases and your spending habits do, too stopped getting the best of me, earning more meant I could save more for retirement.

Here are a few scenarios where job-hopping can help your retirement savings, and where it may hurt.

YES IF YOU'RE IMPROVING EARNING POTENTIAL

In one of my earliest writing jobs, I earned about \$25,000 per year. As much as I enjoyed writing, I knew I was underpaid and overworked. My next move was looking for ways to earn more as a writer, and that's when I realized I had to develop new skills, such as optimizing my writing so it would be visible in search engines like Google. Within a year, I started a new

job that paid me \$45,000 and offered more benefits.

Since I was no longer living paycheck to paycheck and finally had a 401(k) plan, I could start saving for retirement. Changing jobs for a significant increase in income could potentially help your retirement savings, but it requires you to actually put some of that increased income toward your retirement savings.

What is the benchmark for a "significant" increase in income? Aim for a 10% increase, says Mary Beth Storjohann, a certified financial planner and co-CEO of Abacus Wealth Partners in Santa Monica, California.

If a new job offer comes in below that, Storjohann recommends running the numbers to see how much

your take-home pay actually improves when you factor in taxes and other living expenses.

NO — IF COMPANY MATCHES AND EQUITY HAVEN'T FULLY VESTED

If you're going to job-hop, you don't want to leave free money on the table, as that could hurt your retirement savings, says Jerel Butler, a CFP and CEO of Millennial Financial Solutions based in New Orleans. Before throwing up the deuces sign, consider getting your full retirement plan match, restricted stock units or other company equity if your employer offers it.

"Typically, companies have a dedicated vesting schedule for the employees as an incentive to continue working at that partic-

ular company," Butler says. "Sometimes, with companies that match contributions for 401(k) plans, they may ask you to contribute up to two, three, even four years before the company match is fully vested."

Butler also suggests hanging around long enough to get any potential bonuses, which are often distributed during the first quarter of the year. □

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Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
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RBC Royal Bank Acc.#1330772

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The map shows the layout of downtown Aruba with various streets labeled: Weststraat, Scheepstraat, Schipholstraat, Clayia G.F. Bellico Cross, Clayia G.J. Cross, Royal Plaza Mall, L.G. Smith Boulevard, Waterfront, and High Rise Hotel. A magnifying glass is focused on the area where Aruba Today and Bondia are located, highlighting their addresses at Weststraat 22.



'Gray Man' spares no expense — but feels oddly gray

By JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

Sometimes a title just doesn't help a movie.

Not that directors Anthony and Joe Russo had much choice in titling "The Gray Man," their new Netflix spy thriller starring Ryan Gosling — they're adapting the novel of the same name, about a shadowy CIA assassin on the run. Still, it's hard not to think of the title when contemplating the overall effect of a film that spares no expense to entertain, yet ends up feeling a little aimless, perplexingly bland, and — what's the word we're looking for? Oh yes. Gray.

This is a bit of a shame when you're spending a reported \$200 million. And it's not that we can't see where the money went. First of all Gosling, even with his charisma deliberately hampered here — call it the "graying" process — is still worth watching. But also, rarely has global mayhem seemed quite so luxurious as in this venture, which takes us from Bangkok to Baku, from Vienna to Croatia to Prague to France's stunning Chateau de Chantilly, from winding cobblestone streets to grand castles and up to the skies, too — all in chase of one man.

The action is certainly impressive. Let's take just one scene the Russos have dubbed a "movie within a movie" — and maybe they



This image released by Netflix shows Ryan Gosling in a scene from "The Gray Man."

Associated Press

weren't referring to the budget, but this shootout reportedly cost \$40 million. In a picturesque Prague square, Gosling's character remains handcuffed to a bench — rather calmly, given the circumstances — as he confronts waves upon waves of assassins (and perhaps all available film extras and vehicles on the European continent.) Then there's the midair scene where Gosling battles attackers who suddenly get orders to kill him mid-flight, leading to a sequence involving fires and explosions and parachuting and anything else you can imagine. If you're like me, you may start to wonder: Will this costly manhunt

reach the moon? I mean, we know Gosling has experience landing on the lunar surface — also calmly. And what's one more location shoot?

But this isn't "First Man," this is GRAY man. "You'd exist in the gray," CIA handler Donald Fitzroy (Billy Bob Thornton) tells Gosling's character, then a young prison inmate looking at decades in a cell for murder, in a flashback. He'll win a get-out-of-jail-free card if he'll agree to the whole covert assassin thing.

Now it's 18 years later and Sierra Six, or Six for short (because 007 was taken, he quips) is on the job. He's in Bangkok, along with helper Dani (Ana de Armas, ap-

pealing but underused) to kill someone at a New Year's bash, directed remotely by his current boss, Denny Carmichael (Regé-Jean Page of "Bridgerton," sadly given a cardboard role here, as is Jessica Henwick as his colleague). He's about to use his enormous weapon when he notices a small child nearby. "Cleared for collateral," he's told. But Six won't take the risk, and ends up making the kill the old-fashioned way.

But before the man expires, he informs Six he's actually on the same team, and hands him a drive with compromising information about their colleagues. "You're probably next," he says. Now Six is on the run.

He's good at escaping (witness the park bench, and the airplane.) Enter Lloyd Hansen, the most sadistic of freelance killers, whom we meet while torturing someone. Lloyd is such a meanie even the CIA didn't want him fulltime, but they need him now. Everything's extreme about Lloyd, starting with his mustache. Evans has fun being fiendish, and gets a few good lines along with some real clunkers, one of the catchier being: "You wanna make an omelet? You gotta kill some people." But honestly, the torture scenes ... did we need that? Really?

Meanwhile, we learn through another flashback that Six has a close relationship with Fitzroy's young niece, Claire (the lovely 13-year-old Julia Butters from "Once Upon a Time in ... Hollywood.") Claire, who's lost her parents, has a heart problem and needs a pacemaker — an important plot point.

Other notable supporting players include Alfre Woodard in a too-brief turn as a key Six ally and Dhanush as another expert killer called in for help. The expressive Butters gives, though, the most empathetic performance — to be fair, nobody else is fully redeemable, no matter what fancy diploma they have ("We all went to Harvard together" is a line the university's PR team might want to immediately protest.) □

Jack Harlow, Lil Nas X, Kendrick Lamar top MTV VMA nominees



Kendrick Lamar performs at Coachella Music & Arts Festival at the Empire Polo Club in Indio, Calif., Sunday, April 16, 2017.

Associated Press

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jack Harlow, Lil Nas X and Kendrick Lamar are top contenders with seven nominations at the 2022 MTV Video Music Awards.

MTV announced Tuesday that Lil Nas X and Harlow earned multiple nominations for their collaborative hit "Industry Baby," which is nominated for video of the year. Both performers along with Drake, Bad Bunny, Ed Sheeran, Harry Styles and Lizzo will compete for artist of the year.

Lamar, who is nominated for the first time since 2018, has two songs "family ties" and "N95" that will vie for best cinematography. The rapper was also nominated for best hip-hop, direction, visual effects, editing and video for good.

Styles and Doja Cat received the second-most nominations with six. Sheeran, Billie Eilish, Drake, Dua Lipa, Taylor Swift and The Weeknd each pulled in five.

Madonna, who is the most awarded artist in MTV history with 20 wins, becomes

the only artist to receive a nomination in each of the VMAs five decades. She earned her 69th nomination for her 14th studio album "Madame X."

The awards will have 26 first-time nominees including Baby Keem with four along with Kacey Musgraves, GAYLE and Måneskin — who each have two nominations.

The VMAs will take place Aug. 28 at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey. Fan-voting begins Tuesday across 22 categories at vote.mtv.com. □

NFL teams open camp with biggest question still unanswered

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

Training camps opened across the NFL and the biggest offseason question remains unanswered.

The Cleveland Browns still don't know how many games they'll be without Deshaun Watson, who is still waiting for retired judge Sue L. Robinson to issue a ruling following his disciplinary hearing that concluded nearly four weeks ago. The league and the NFL Players' Association requested a decision by the start of training camp, according to a person familiar with the process who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the discussions are private. Robinson, who was jointly appointed by the league and the union, had no obligation to meet that deadline. Representatives are hopeful a decision comes this week.

Watson was accused of sexual misconduct by 24 women and has settled 20 of the civil lawsuits. Two separate Texas grand juries declined to indict Watson on criminal complaints stemming from the allegations.

The Browns, along with 27 other teams, welcomed their veterans on Tuesday as each of the 32 teams



Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson takes part in drills at the NFL football team's practice facility Tuesday, June 14, 2022, in Berea, Ohio.

Associated Press

have now kicked off camp. Watson reported to his first camp with Cleveland last week along with veteran backup Jacoby Brissett, the team's presumed starter if there is a suspension. The Browns also signed Josh Rosen last week as more quarterback insurance. Watson should be on the field for the team's first full-squad practice Wednesday. There was an amusing moment on Monday when the three-time Pro Bowl quarterback was

seen walking in full uniform across the street in front of the Browns' training facility to take part in a photo shoot.

Other top questions around the NFL that still need to be addressed in training camp:

WHERE'S JIMMY G GOING? The San Francisco 49ers made it clear Trey Lance will be the starting quarterback and they're moving on from Jimmy Garoppolo, who led them to a Super Bowl appearance following

the 2019 season and nearly another one last season. The Niners have to trade or release Garoppolo before Week 1 to avoid having his \$24.2 million base salary become fully guaranteed. Garoppolo would've been moved already if it weren't for his offseason shoulder surgery. "This is Trey's team. That's nothing against Jimmy," 49ers coach Mike Shanahan said. "We made that decision a year ago and we're not going to mess around with that anymore."

... Jimmy understands that fully. He's a big guy and it's nothing against him. It's a business decision."

BAKER OR SAM?

The Carolina Panthers acquired Baker Mayfield from the Browns earlier this month and plan to let him compete with Sam Darnold for the starting quarterback job. Mayfield, the No. 1 overall pick in 2018, has been more successful than Darnold, who was the third pick by the Jets in the same draft. Panthers coach Matt Rhule isn't going to rush a decision. "Anytime you put timelines on things, you end up rushing to make bad decisions," Rhule said. "To me this is about being in the moment but not making rash judgements. Guys are going to have good days and bad days. When we know, we know."

WHEN DOES LAMAR GET PAID?

The Baltimore Ravens still haven't locked Lamar Jackson into a long-term contract extension but the two sides have been talking. Jackson, the 2019 NFL MVP, saw his value increase after the Cardinals gave Kyler Murray a deal worth up to \$230.5 million with about \$105 million guaranteed at signing and \$160 million guaranteed for injury. □

Sharks hire David Quinn as new head coach

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — The San Jose Sharks have hired former New York Rangers coach David Quinn as their new head coach.

The Sharks announced Tuesday that Quinn would replace the fired Bob Boughner as the Sharks overhaul their management and coaching team. "His previous NHL head coaching experience is valuable to us and he implements a system that will fit with our philosophy of being a hard team to play against," general manager Mike Grier said in a statement. "We are extremely happy to have him a part of this organization."

The 55-year-old Quinn coached the Rangers for

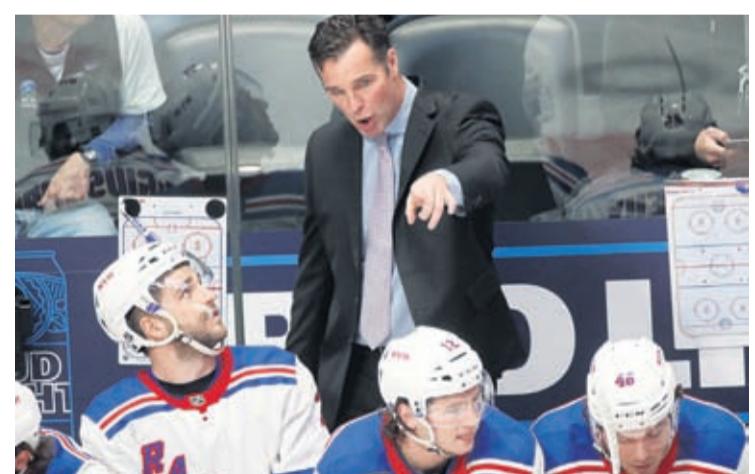
three seasons from 2018-21, posting a 96-87-25 record. New York never made it as far as the conference quarterfinals in Quinn's three seasons, missing the playoffs in 2019 and '21 and losing in the qualifying round in the COVID bubble in 2020.

Quinn had previously been head coach for five seasons in college at Boston University. He also coached the U.S. Olympic team to a fifth-place finish in Beijing last February.

The Sharks have undergone an organizational overhaul after missing the playoffs for a third straight season for the first time in franchise history.

Long-time general man-

ager Doug Wilson stepped down for medical reasons in April and Boughner was fired along with three assistants in late June after posting a 67-85-23 record in two-plus seasons at the helm. San Jose hired Grier as general manager earlier in July and Grier has already made significant changes in the front office and now has hired a new coach in hopes of turning the Sharks' fortunes around. The Sharks traded away star defenseman Brent Burns earlier this month and have added several veterans like forwards Oskar Lindblom, Luke Kunin, Nico Sturm and Steven Lorentz, and defensemen Markus Nutivaara and Matt Benning in hopes



New York Rangers head coach David Quinn talks to players in the first period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in Denver.

Associated Press

of adding more depth to the roster.

Quinn takes over a roster that struggled to score last season but does have a

few key pieces in place, including forwards Tomas Hertl, Logan Couture and Timo Meier, and defenseman Erik Karlsson. □

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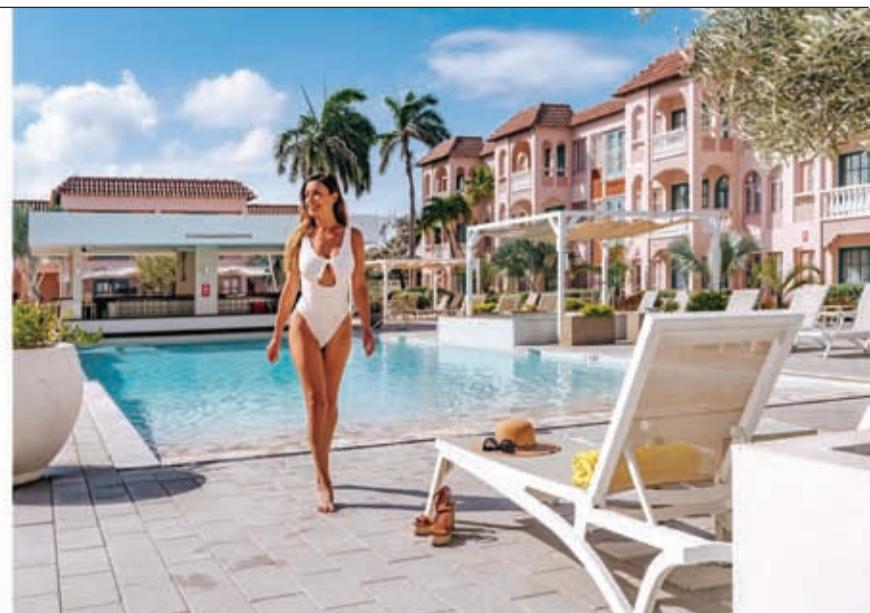
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NASCAR and IndyCar speed into shared Indy weekend

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

Denny Hamlin ate dinner next to the winning Pocono Raceway trophy, opened the celebratory champagne awarded to the victor and enjoyed a glass with his meal.

It was an advertisement: "Live on EBay. I tainted trophy and I used bottle of champagne," he posted on social media.

The first Cup winner to be disqualified since April 17, 1960, hasn't shied away from poking fun at the predicament Joe Gibbs Racing found itself in when the Toyotas of Hamlin and runner-up Kyle Busch failed postrace inspection Sunday at Pocono. Hamlin even shoved a clear piece of tape into the mouth of the eagle on the Pocono trophy to represent the illegal tape NASCAR says it found on the two JGR cars after the race.

He estimated the clear tape — because it stripped him of the victory and all the spoils that come with a win — was "worth about 300k. (Not to be included in sale.)"

Chase Elliott is unlikely to bid on any of the items. He was eventually declared the winner of Sunday's race at Pocono, where he finished third and never led a lap but inherited the win when JGR failed inspection.

NASCAR's most popular driver has no interest in earning trophies that way. "I don't think any driver wants to win that way — I certainly don't," Elliott said. And that's how NASCAR heads into this shared



Taylor James Hamlin, left, carries the checkered flag with her dad, Denny Hamlin, after he won a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Pocono Raceway, Sunday, July 24, 2022, in Long Pond, Pa.

Associated Press

weekend with IndyCar on the road course at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Kurt Busch missed Sunday's race at Pocono with concussion-like symptoms from a Saturday crash, and on the IndyCar side, two-time series champion Josef Newgarden won't know if he can race until a Thursday evaluation following his own health scare. Newgarden collapsed and hit his head roughly 90 minutes after he'd been cleared by IndyCar's medical staff following a hard crash while leading at Iowa Speedway. Although there's been no mention of a possible concussion by either IndyCar or Team Penske for Newgarden, the team has put Santino Ferrucci on standby in case Newgarden isn't cleared to race Saturday.

IndyCar is coming off an action-packed weekend at Iowa Speedway, where new sponsor Hy-Vee spent \$10 million to throw an extravaganza that included a pair of races and concerts by Tim McGraw, Florida Georgia Line and Gwen Stefani, whose 50-minute prerace set on Sunday drew drivers and teams to the stage and upstaged her headliner husband, Blake Shelton.

It was an electric IndyCar weekend that rivaled its marquee events at Indianapolis, St. Petersburg, Long Beach and Toronto, and raised the bar for what promoters could be doing to promote a series that trails NASCAR in popularity. "Everybody that isn't Hy-Vee and Penske Entertainment, the people who brought Iowa together this

way, can learn from this weekend because every single IndyCar weekend has to be like this," said Pato O'Ward, who finished second on Saturday and won Sunday following Newgarden's crash.

"They've shown that if you put the effort in to a great event, people will show up. This place was packed."

The reward was a championship chase that has tightened to six drivers separated by 44 points with five races remaining. Newgarden was scored as the points leader when he was dominating Sunday's race, but he dropped to a tie for third with Scott Dixon following his crash.

Now his title chances hinge on being cleared to race Saturday: Should Newgarden be benched, it would most certainly cost him his

shot at a third IndyCar title. And that's where Roger Penske and his committee missed taking a big swing at drumming up major interest in this weekend's IMS doubleheader. Penske owns the track and the doubleheader weekend is his to promote, except now his star driver is questionable. If Newgarden can't race, then it's a throwaway for the No. 2 and it doesn't really matter where the driver finishes.

Ferrucci has been a super-sub of late, was 10th in the Indy 500 and is a fine choice for a standby driver. But with NASCAR also scheduled to be in town, there seems to be a deep pool of candidates that Penske could have chosen from. Among them? Reigning NASCAR champion Kyle Larson raised his hand as interested in standing by for Newgarden and fans went wild over the idea of Larson in an Indy car. Sage Karam is scheduled to drive the Xfinity Series race but also said he's interested in double duty. IndyCar veteran Tony Kanaan was going to be at the track anyway, and the list goes on and on. Juan Pablo Montoya just raced the road course in May in an Indy car and is a former Penske driver, and then there's Cup rookie Austin Cindric, who once thought he'd be an IndyCar driver but instead found his way to NASCAR. His father, Tim Cindric, is president of Team Penske and the strategist on Newgarden's car. What a weekend it could have been for the Cindrics. □